

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147  
Page 6

Dkt. 2271/66652

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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 30, 2006. Claims 1-13 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 5-8 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and claim 13 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-12 are now pending, with claims 1 and 5 being in independent form.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.5,465,163 to Yoshihara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,181 to Goldberg et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to reading and transmitting by a facsimile device of a large-size copy which has a width in a main scanning direction greater than an A3-size width.

Applicant devised improvements to such a facsimile device having large-copy capability. The improved facsimile device in one example of comprises inputting means and reading means. The inputting means inputs image data of a subject copy having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-size width, and includes scanner means to scan the subject copy having a size larger than the A3-size. The reading means detects whether the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, and if the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, automatically divides the subject copy into at least two read areas according to a specified overlapping width. Each of independent claims 1 and 5 addresses these features, as well as additional features. Thus, the large-size copy can be transmitted as two or more pages, without requiring the user to specify or determine the bounds of the two or more pages.

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147  
Page 7

Dkt. 2271/66652

Yoshihara, as understood by Applicant, proposes a copier with conventional capabilities for handling large-sized copies. That is, when copying a large-size original, the user specifies through operation of an operation unit the number of read operations, and then for each read operation the user orients the original on the mount glass and presses the read key to trigger the read operation. When the read operations are completed, the operator presses the read-end key, and the copier proceeds to process the image portions stored in memory to synthesize a complete document image from the stored image portions.

It is contended in the Office Action that Yoshihara, column 5, lines 35-40 proposes that the subject copy is automatically divided into at least two read areas according to an overlapping width.

However, Yoshihara, column 5, lines 35-40, states as follows:

In the following explanation, it is assumed that one image original is divided and is read in four reading operations. The operator sets the number "4" of reading operations by a key input from the operation unit 10 (step S1), and sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the original on the original mount glass 22. If the CPU 50 determines that the read key has been depressed (step S2), the image area of the original set on the original mount glass 22 is read by the image reading unit 20 (step S3), and the read image is stored in the bit-map memory 341 (step S4). The same processing is performed for the remaining 3/4 image areas (steps S2, S3, S4 and S5). At that time, read images of the remaining image areas are stored in the bit-map memories 341a, 341b and 341c. When the operator sets an image area slightly larger than 1/4 of the image original on the original mount glass 22, the operator must set the image area so that surrounding portions of the set image area overlap other image areas. FIGS. 6(2), 6(3), 6(4) and 6(5) illustrate a specific example of read images stored in the bit-map memories 341, 341a, 341b and 341c.

Thus, as mentioned above, Yoshihara proposes that for each of multiple portions of the original to be imaged, the user orients the original such that the portion of the original to be read is properly positioned on the mount glass, and then the user presses the read key to trigger the read operation of that portion.

Yoshihara simply does not teach or suggest a facsimile device wherein the inputting means

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147  
Page 8

Dkt. 2271/66652

inputs image data of a subject copy having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-size width, and includes scanner means to scan the subject copy having a size larger than the A3-size, and the reading means detects whether the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, and if the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, automatically divides the subject copy into at least two read areas according to a specified overlapping width.

Goldberg, as understood by Applicant, proposes an image processing system configured to rotate a regular size image with a small buffer memory which has a storage capacity less than that required to store a regular size image for a 8.5" by 11" sheet of paper. In the system proposed by Goldberg, the image is divided into image sections, each image section is rotated and the rotated image is constructed from the rotated image sections.

However, Goldberg neither teaches nor suggests adapting the system proposed therein to handle a large-sized document which is larger than A3-size.

Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a facsimile device wherein the inputting means inputs image data of a subject copy having a width in a main scanning direction larger than an A3-size width, and includes scanner means to scan the subject copy having a size larger than the A3-size, and the reading means detects whether the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, and if the size of the subject copy is larger than the A3-size, automatically divides the subject copy into at least two read areas according to a specified overlapping width, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 as amended. Independent claim 5 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 6, and the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the cited art.

Nobuhiro ITOH, S.N. 10/054,147  
Page 9


Dkt. 2271/66652

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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